

THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."

VOL. 2.

New York, Saturday, January 1, 1848.

NO. 17.

R. R. KIRBY, M. D. AND R. A. SNOW, M. D., EDITORS.

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AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HOMŒOPATHY.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JAN. 1, 1848.

THE DRUGGING SYSTEM.

(Continued from Page 174.)

That man was designed to enjoy health, that he may, by observance of certain fixed principles, permanently secure it, and that a knowledge of these principles should be of primary importance to every human being of intelligence and judgment, are propositions which receive the assent of the intellect, but which are too little regarded, in a practical manner, as truths of the vastest consequence. If it be not an easy task to determine what most contributes to the symmetrical action of the physical, mental and moral powers, it is not so difficult to learn what agents are capable of disturbing this action, and of deranging the operations of the different organs of the human system. Without undertaking a labored exposition of those physiological principles which relate to the harmonious action of the vital powers, and the healthy

performance of all the organic functions, it is sufficient for our purpose, at this time, to state, that whatever has the power of disturbing this action, and of deranging these functions; or, in other words, whatever has the power of diverting the vital forces from their natural channels, of causing an unnecessary expenditure of the vital power, is unfavorable to a state of health, and has the tendency to shorten life.

Drugs are unnatural irritants. They have the power of exciting and elevating the vital action, and of producing an injurious expenditure of it. If they are capable of rousing depressed action, and of removing oppressed sensibilities, they have no power to replenish the amount of vitality which they drain from the system, nor to effect permanent relief of parts, which are dependent upon a proper supply of vital power for their healthy condition. Like other stimulants, they increase action, but diminish the power which supplies it.

Crude drugs not only produce injurious diversion, and cause unnecessary expenditure of the vital power, but they interrupt the harmony of nicely adjusted and complicated vital operations, and inflict immediate injury upon the parts to which they are applied. They confuse and break up the processes by which nature seeks to restore diseased parts to a state of soundness, and any apparent advantage which is gained, is at the expense of permanent health in the system. If disease be caused by over-action of the vital forces, drugs have a direct tendency to increase the action to a dangerous or fatal degree, to divert it to sound parts, and to inflict a great amount of unnecessary suffering; while they ultimately weaken the system, and induce a state of protracted debility, perhaps of slow disorganization of some tissues or organs. If disease consist in debility, in want

of vital action, it must be readily perceived that to increase the debility, and to lessen the vital force, by means of agents used for such purpose, is not the proper indication, and that the direct tendency of such treatment is to increase the mischief, and to hazard the safety of the patient. If nature is competent to cure, and if the symptoms of disease indicate the regenerative process which she has undertaken to accomplish, interference with her operations, by means which not only have the power to derange and divert them, but to cause other and characteristic disturbances, must be unwise and unjustifiable. If the processes which nature institutes, to renovate the system, and restore soundness to diseased parts, be essential to the consummation of such objects, it were better that the patient be left free from the alterative, and even from the palliative, influences of agents which arrest the progress of cure, and stave off the effort—only to be renewed when there are increased difficulties to be overcome. If the physician has no reliable principle to guide him in the treatment of disease; if he knows not how to act with nature, and to assist her operations; if he is ignorant as to precisely what is the true indication, he had far better do nothing. In doing nothing, he can but err on the safe side, and may always be consoled with the reflection, that, according to the testimony of history, and the observation of his masters in medicine, more diseases are cured by nature, when left to her own resources, than by all the appliances which have been invented since the days of Hippocrates.

Every one familiar with medicine is aware that a knowledge of such principle is entirely wanting, and that the use of drugs has been entirely governed by the various and conflicting theories of disease which have prevailed. One class of practitioners with full confidence in the omnipotence of these crude agents, the lancet, and powerful external revulsants, have gone blindly on in the reckless employment of these most sanguinary and destructive agents, without ever stopping to think or observe for themselves; but content to quote authority for their course, and to follow the books, right or wrong, in their dealings with disease—never learning anything from the most disastrous results of their heroic remedies. Like the madman throwing about firebrands, they look composedly upon the ruin of which their rashness is productive, incapable of tracing effects to causes, and apparent-

ly unconscious of having done anything wrong. Another class, with full confidence in the recuperative powers of nature, have sought to learn her intentions, and by imitating her processes, have endeavoured to assist her efforts by the mildest means in their power. Bewildered by contradictory theories, and discordant modes of explaining the nature of disease, and the modus operandi of medicines, and by the contrarious facts of different authors, they have carefully watched nature, avoiding so far as they deemed safe all interference with her operations. While empirics and quacks, in bold imitation of the heroic practitioner, and profiting by the diversity of theories, and the caution and timidity of the expectant physician, has imposed upon the credulity of mankind, and enriched himself by spreading far and wide his nostrums, laying deep and broad the foundation of disease and death.

We will cite a case which has just occurred under our own observation. A young woman, of nervous sensitive temperament, nursing her first child, six months old, having had from the first superabundant lactation, was attacked with violent pain in the left hypogastric region. Her physician, considering it a case of Mearns, or some otheritis, applied a great number of leeches to the bowels, which caused profuse hemorrhage; gave cathartics of calomel, senna, etc., and administered cathartic enemata; and then to ease the pain, gave opiates, which, for a time, afforded relief, followed by exacerbations of all the difficulties. The pain shifted to different parts of the abdomen, to the chest and shoulder, causing great difficulty of breathing—increased by the least movement. This state of things had lasted nearly two weeks when we saw the patient, and found her suffering intolerable agony, and much worse, from her own, and the account of her friends, than she had at any time been. She was greatly reduced and had fever. Now, although such treatment is authorized by the books, no rational mind can fail to see its frightful effects in this case, nor would hesitate to admit, that, had it been persisted in, it would have terminated fatally. How many victims have thus been sacrificed to ignorance and empiricism, "it is frightful to contemplate!"

How important is it, then, that some reliable and universal principle should be found upon which the truly scientific in the profession

can unite in rational and correct treatment of disease, and in delivering mankind from the evils which false theories, and mercenary pretenders, have conspired to fasten upon them. How highly incumbent is it on the professed disciples of Hahnemann, who have the knowledge of such a principle, to demonstrate its truth and practical utility by a strict and consistent adherence to it; and how recreant to principle, to all honesty and self-respect, regard for his order, and the welfare of the race must he be, who believes in the great law upon which Homœopathy is based, and yet who, from whatever motives, abandons it for the empirical art for which the most intelligent opponent of Homœopathy would vain find a substitute.

ACTION OF DYNAMIZED MEDICINES.

We are aware of the difficulty which is generally experienced, by those who have not carefully thought about the subject, in understanding, and in being able to account for, the effect of small doses, when administered to the sick. "How is it possible that so small a dose can have any effect?" is a question which they are unable to answer, but yet make it an obstacle to their confidence in, or trial of, the Homœopathic practice.

Without carefully investigating the philosophical merits of the subject, and its relations to physiological, pathological and therapeutic principles, it can be neither understood nor appreciated; nor even then, is it probable, that the *modus operandi*, the *how* medicines in the dynamized form, produce their effects can be truly answered. It involves very many scientific considerations, which require much study, thought and comparison to fully comprehend; and since it is not to be expected that the generality of people will become conversant with all these, we think with our correspondent, that the shortest and best way to arrive at proper convictions, is to acquire practical knowledge on the subject by taking the medicine, and subjecting the operation of small doses to fair trials. That there is any mystery about it, should not, of itself, be a bar to favorable consideration of the action of medicines administered upon the Homœopathic law. Inability to explain all that is believed and confided in, is not an obstacle to such confidence and belief in other matters.

The practical merits of this question are based upon facts, which it is claimed are susceptible of easy demonstration, and this being a question of vast practical importance, the most direct mode of acquiring satisfactory knowledge of it, is to examine those facts.

The reasons for this unwillingness to try the Homœopathic practice, are that people have been taught false notions of disease, and have been accustomed to a crude and barbarous system of treatment of it. They have seen disease combatted by powerful doses of poisons, and have witnessed the operation of these poisons in producing violent effects, and have been told that these effects were necessary and salutary; and since other and more rational views of disease are entertained—that it originates in derangement of the vital forces, or is the result of infringement or neglect of the laws upon which their healthy action depends, or from the influence of dynamic morbid agents, they have not been told that the means of cure should be of like character, and that it is not now necessary, in order to restore harmony to disturbed vital forces, to employ such crude materials, to poison the system, and induce other and more serious disturbances, by crude doses of medicine.

And what is strange, those who thus admit the dynamic nature of disease, and are unable to explain the *modus operandi* of a dynamic agent, in producing it, ridicule and oppose Homœopathy because it makes use of dynamic medicinal agents in curing disease. When they can explain how it is, that the undetected miasm of smallpox, produces such a terrible disease, then it can be shown how it is that small doses of medicine are capable of restoring order and harmony to deranged vital forces; and till then, some other motive must be imputed to them, than a zealous regard for truth, when they assert that it is ridiculous to suppose that the Homœopathic medicines can have any effect, because they are given in small doses.

We especially invoke the attention of the scientific to this subject. It is in no spirit of partizanship that we assert our belief in the truth and importance of the principles we advocate, nor are we wanting in respect for the medical profession, when we urge upon its members the examination of doctrines, which if true, would prove to them a long sought desideratum, and of inestimable value to their patients and to mankind. We have too much

regard for the intelligence and good sense of very many worthy members of the Allopathic school, to suppose that their opposition to Homœopathy, so much grows out of anything irrational or improbable, in the principles upon which it is based, as from unjust prejudices, induced, it may be, by the conduct of many who have undertaken to explain, and to carry into practice these principles, but who, from want of comprehension of the exclusiveness of them, or from want of honesty in relying upon them, in their efforts to extend their business, have failed to demonstrate their competency to supercede all other principles of medical practice. On the contrary it is well known that the principle of selecting medicines to cure diseases, similar to such as they are capable of producing, has long been considered true, is now assented to by many intelligent opponents of Homœopathy as a system of medical practice, while its refutation is scarcely attempted by any one.

The doctrine of the curative powers of nature is now equally admitted, while it is taught that her efforts should not be thwarted by injurious means to combat disease, but that they should be studied and regarded when it is known in what manner this may be done. Homœopathy does not profess to produce effects (as generally understood) by her medicines, nor does she desire it, as this cannot be done without interfering with the curative operations of nature, by altering the vital actions, or instituting the specific action of the medicines—which can never be the true indication. Governed by the real indication, she administers small doses of medicine Homœopathic to the case, and which, acting upon the same tissues, is capable of determining the vital power to diseased parts, enabling it to overcome the abnormal condition, and to restore harmony to the deranged vital actions.

The employment of small doses is naturally consequent upon the dynamic nature of disease, the curative powers of nature, and the principle which furnishes the indication for the selection of the medicine. If the medicines be positively dynamized, still there ought to be no more difficulty in comprehending their influence in restoring deranged actions, than in accounting for the power of dynamic morbid agents in producing such derangement.

Medicines have always been considered to act more efficiently, to some extent in pro-

portion to the comminution of the substance, while it is well known that some medicines are altogether inert in a crude state. In the process of trituration, succussion or comminution of medicines, as practised by the Homœopathist, it cannot be objected that atoms of the substance, subjected to such processes, do not exist in his preparations. Hence if the dynamic action of medicines be denied, the sceptic may fall back upon the fact that matter is susceptible of incredible subdivision, and is absolutely imperishable. Facts in connection with which, and capable of complete demonstration, are as wonderful and incomprehensible as the effects claimed for communicated medicines upon highly susceptible vital forces.

"That the atoms of which bodies are composed are exceedingly small, we possess abundant proof.

By dissolving substances in liquid media, and then greatly diluting the solution, we can effect subdivision to an incredible extent.

A single drop of the solution of sulphate of indigo will communicate a blue color to one thousand cubic inches of water, so that every drop of that diluted solution contains a portion of the coloring matter. In the same manner by resorting to proper tests, we can show that a grain of copper, or silver, or gold, may be divided into many million smaller parts, each of which may be readily recognized.

Nor is it alone by these chemical processes that such a minute subdivision may be effected; by the mechanical process of beating with a hammer, gold may be extended into leaves, which are less than the 1,200,000 part of an inch thick, a dimension far less than the human eye, unassisted by the microscope, can discover; for the smallest spherical object visible to it is about 12000 of an inch in diameter.

By other processes, it has been estimated that this metal may be divided to such an extent, that a single grain will yield 80 millions of millions of visible parts. The world of organization furnishes us with still more striking proofs. There exist animacules, of which it would require many millions to make up the bulk of a common grain of sand, yet these are furnished with digestive and respiratory organs, with circulating juices, and with contrivances, as elaborate as the mechanism of the highest orders of life. How minute, then, must the constituent particles be!"—*Draper's Chemistry*.

CHARACTERISTICS AND PHYSIOGRAPHY OF THE GENUS CROUP AND ITS SPECIES.

(From the N. Archiv., Vol. II. 2, with Modifications and Additions.)

I.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GENUS CROUP AND ITS SPECIES.

CROUP.

Attacks of suffocative cough, with deep, hollow, hoarse, rough, crowing, barking sound of the cough with slow, short, irregular, hissing, whistling, rattling, sawing inspiration and humid expiration, or with complete loss of breath threatening suffocation: with mucous, purulent, or membranous expectoration or without any expectoration; with irritation in the larynx or upper part of the trachea preceding the attack.

1.—*Breminc-croup.*

Formation of a false membrane in the larynx and trachea. Spasm of the larynx, and hence suffocation. Cough with croupy sound; hoarse; whistling; with great effort; hindering speech; conjoined with sneezing; with violent attacks of suffocation. Respiration with mucous rattle; whistling; alternately, sometimes slow and suffocative, sometimes rapid and superficial; difficult; painful; impeded; gasping for breath. Heat of face. Increased urinary secretion. Pulse hardish; at first diminished, then increased in frequency.

2.—*Hepar-croup.*

Violent fits of coughing, as if suffocation or vomiting would ensue; deep; arising from obstructed respiration; asthmatic; with raw pain in the chest at every cough; violent; striking painfully on the larynx; scratching; scraping; with expectoration of mucous, excited by a tickling in the throat; by a scraping irritation in the trachea; increased to actual vomiting by deep inspiration. Weakness of the voice and of the chest, so that loud speaking is impossible. Respiration short. Constrictive feeling as if he would choke, caused by a sensation of pressure in the throat. Urine pale, clear when first discharge, becoming afterwards cloudy and thick with sediment; curdy, cloudy, when first discharged; dark yellow; scalding. Great and irresistible

sleepiness. Perspiration day and night, profuse; viscid; excessive nocturnal diaphoresis; sweat before midnight. Melancholy; uneasy; lachrymose.

3.—*Spongia-croup.*

Hollow cough; with expectoration; with pain in the chest and windpipe; with roughness of the throat; (nocturnal cough with tearful disposition) Respiration impeded as if from foreign body in the larynx; slow; rapid; panting. Larynx painful as if from pressure, aggravated by being touched; scraping, burning, constriction in it. Painful feeling of swelling in the glands of the neck near the larynx and trachea. Shooting in the throat, and externally a sensation as if something was pressing outwards, morning and evening. Painful tension, to the left of the pomum Adami on turning the head to the right. Eyes deeply sunk. Urinary sediment thick grayish-white. General perspiration in the morning; pulse rapid, hard. Sleepiness. Weariness of the whole body. Morose; every thing, even talking and replying, angers him.

II.

PHYSIOGRAPHY OF THE GENUS CROUP AND ITS SPECIES.

CROUP.

Synonyms.—Angina, seu Cynanche membranacea, strangulatoria, suffocatoria, stridula, exsudativa, orthopnoea cyanchica. Laryngitis, seu tracheitis infantum membranosa, humida, exsudativa. Angina polyposa. Cynanche trachealis, (Rusch.) Pœdanchone. Suffocatio stridula, (Home.) Angina Strepitosa, (Ghiis.) Angina exsudatoria laryngea, (Hufeland.) Hautige Braune, pfeifende Braune, Stickbraune, Hühnerweb, Kroupe (in German.) Strypsajuka, (in Swedish.) Croup, (in English.) [The name of *croup* is, we believe, of Scotch origin, and has reference to the peculiar sound of the cough; our German neighbours have barbarously Latinized it, and have, therefrom, invented the word *crouposus*, which they employ in all its inflexions to different diseases, to signify that they are accompanied by the formation of a false membrane.]

After some premonitory catarrhal symptoms, or sometimes suddenly without these, children are attacked with croup; they generally start up at night out of their sleep with a feeling of anxiety, and a violent fit of a peculiar kind of cough seems as if it would suffocate them; this

has scarcely ceased when the patient again falls asleep.

The cough is sharp, violent, short, barking, afterwards crowing, hollow or rough, as if one should cough into an empty pot or a metal tube; it is generally dry; after every cough there follows a dry, hissing, slow, sonorous inspiration; betwixt the fits of coughing is more easily performed than the inspiration, but it is hurried. The cough afterwards loses its sonorous tone, and can only be heard at a short distance. Between the fits of coughing which either arise spontaneously, or are brought on by talking, drinking, &c. a whistling sound is heard in the air passages on inspiration. The cough is sometimes accompanied by ineffectual efforts to detach something from the windpipe. There is generally an absence of expectoration. It is only in the latter stages of croup that there is sometimes an expectoration of mucous or cheese-like particles, (sometimes mixed with blood,) and afterwards larger or smaller shreds of membranous exudation, not unfrequently of a tubular form corresponding to the cavity of the larynx or trachea, are coughed up or vomited.

Hoarseness, also, in the intervals of the fits. The voice is altered; it resembles the crowing of a young cock, the barking of a dog, or the braying of an ass; it is sometimes hollow and deep, sometimes shrieking, sometimes whistling, sometimes lisping; occasionally it is as it were, double, passing quickly from a rough deep tone into crowing sharp treble tone. Subsequently the voice goes away altogether; the child tries to cry or speak but cannot.

The larynx and upper part of the trachea are of themselves, but still more when touched, painful, and sometimes visibly swollen externally. The slightest contact of the finger with the larynx brings on a fit of coughing.

The breathing is very irregular,—at one time short, at another slow and deep; the expiration generally short; the inspiration protracted and whistling; the breathing becomes at last snoring, sawing, and is audible at a considerable distance. At each inspiration the larynx descends rapidly towards the sternum, the diaphragm at the same time drawing the epigastrium inwards and upwards; whilst, during the expiration, the larynx is elevated towards the lower jaw, the cartilages of the ribs and the sternum are drawn rapidly backwards, the shoulders elevated; the child sits up, looks anxiously about it, wishes to get

out of bed, catches at its larynx, pushes out its tongue, throws its head back and its neck forwards: the face, carotids, juglar veins, and muscles of the neck swell; the heart and carotids pulsate violently: the reddened half open eyes sink, the nostrils are widely dilated, and cold perspiration burst forth in the face, chest, and rest of the body. The countenance collapses, becomes of a pale, bluish, or grayish colour. When the fit continues longer, the child tears out its hair, beats about it, seizes fast hold of every thing, or tries to dash its head against the wall. The difficulty of breathing is sometimes greater than at others; especially during the night, and in sleep. After the termination of an attack, the child sinks back in the bed, pale blue, exhausted, and apparently in slumber.

Concomitant affections.

The anterior part of the throat and the sublingual glands are often swollen. Epistaxis. Blueish lips; tongue dry, afterwards with a blackish coating. Thirst. The cough sometimes accompanied by vomiting. At first constipation, afterwards involuntary, black stinking evacuations. Portions of the membranous exudation of the larynx are often swallowed and passed by stool. Urine watery and clear, afterwards with white mucous sediment; the latter is often present at the very commencement of the disease. The urine (which has a sulphurous smell) is sometimes of a red or yellow colour, and is sometimes cloudy. Fever, with evening exacerbations. Pulse frequent, by and by irregular intermitting, and scarcely perceptible.

ADDENDA.

Pathological Anatomy.—The mucous membrane of the larynx, trachea and bronchia, sometimes also that of the fauces and palate, is covered with a plastic exudation which is either continuous, and in the form of tubes corresponding to the cavity it covers, or is attached to the mucous membrane in insulated patches of an irregular shape. Among one hundred and forty-one cases, Hussenot found the plastic product not extending beyond the trachea in seventy-eight; in forty-two the bronchi were likewise affected; in thirty cases the exudation occupied both larynx and trachea, the state of the bronchi not being specified; and in twenty-one cases no plastic lymph was discovered. The longer the duration of the disease, the tougher and thicker is the exudation, and the farther downwards it extends.

According to Heim, if the child die on the seventh or eighth day, it is almost always so extensive as to reach into the bronchi, and so consistent that it may be removed entire. The exudation is generally thickest on the posterior wall of the windpipe. Its colour is yellowish-white, grayish, greenish, dull, yellow, dirty. Its attachment to the mucous membrane is sometimes loose, sometimes more close. About the exudation there collects gradually a grayish, viscid, or watery mucus, by means of which the detachment of the false membrane is effected.

Sometimes there is found in the air passages only a more or less considerable quantity of purulent mucus, either homogeneous or mingled with shreddy particles, and of various degrees of consistence, up to such a state of viscosity, that it lies like a layer of cream on the mucous membrane, and represents the lowest state of the plastic exudation. The mucous membrane beneath is more or less reddened; the redness is sometimes very dark brown, more generally bright sometimes extending over a wide space, sometimes scattered over the mucous membrane in an insulated form; not unfrequently the redness is spread over the whole surface of the air passages, from the larynx down to the minute bronchial ramifications, and even over the fauces, œsophagus, and cavities of the mouth, nose, and frontal sinus.

The injection may, however, be absent. Heim, Schönlein, and Ambrose have observed several instances in which there seemed to be an inverse relation between the intensity of the redness, and the quantity of the exudation. If the disease has existed a certain time, the redness is generally absent. The mucous follicles are often enlarged, seldom excoriated, the mucous membrane is puckered, swollen, rarely in a state of gelatinous softening, or brittle and easily torn; the sub-mucous cellular tissue is generally infiltrated with serous, gelatinous, or purulent matter. The lungs are generally congested with blood, sometimes hepatized, splenitized, emphysematous, œdematous; the pleura and pericardium reddened; not unfrequently in the cavities of these two membranes is found a serous exudation. The brain is congested with blood, and often contains no small quantity of serum.

2. *Pathological Chemistry.*—Chemical analysis has given the same result with respect

to all pseudo-membranous deposits in the air passages. They are insoluble in water, in a strong solution of nitrate of potash they become soft, and of the consistence of transparent mucous; they are perfectly soluble in a hot or cold alkaline solution, as also in the mineral acids; when incinerated, they furnish phosphate of lime and carbonate of soda, and they present all the chemical reactions of albumen.

3. *Etiology.*—Those most frequently attacked with croup are children between two and seven years of age, but adults are exceptionally affected by it. Boys are more liable to it than girls, and among them the robust more frequently than the weakly, children of the lower classes badly nourished and clothed more frequently than those in better circumstances.

Croup occurs more frequently in moist and cold than in hot and dry seasons, the commencement of spring and end of autumn furnish the largest number of croup patients. Among the acute exanthemata which may be accompanied by croup in a secondary form, the measles occupies the first rank. The croup of measles generally disappears immediately on the appearance of the eruption; but it is not always innocuous, for Heim three times after measles found the same tabular exudation as in ordinary croup. According to P. Frank the period of convalescence from measles is very favourable to the occurrence of croup. More rarely does croup accompany scarlatina, rubeola, or small-pox; Albers has only seen it in cases of putrid æriola. Aphtha may, in children, extend to the air passages and develop croup.

4. *Course, duration, and issue.*—Croup frequently runs its course within from three to four days, often from nine to ten, very rarely from fifteen to twenty days.

It terminates:—

a. *In recovery.* The exudation is expectorated, vomited, hawked up, or (and this is particularly the case with little children) swallowed, and then it is often discovered in the evacuations, or it becomes softened and absorbed, or organized and attached to the mucous membrane of the larynx and trachea. Sometimes the formation and casting of the membrane is often renewed. When the cough becomes milder, there is expectoration of thick mucous. The nose becomes moist, fluent, and sometimes bleeds. Sometimes there is great pyralism. On the skin there appears perspira-

tion; sometimes also a red miliary eruption. The voice remains long changed, and the larynx so susceptible that the slightest cause gives rise to catarrh or relapse of croup.

b. In Phthisis of the larynx or of the trachea, or other chronic forms; also in pneumonia.

c. In death: 1, by suffocation either by violent spasms of the glottis, or from choking up of the air passage by the exudation; 2, by asphyxia (that is, cessation of the oxydation of the blood) from exhaustion or paralysis of the organs of respiration; 3d, by apoplexy.

Locality.—Croup is more frequent in the north than in the south. It affects the neighbourhood of the sea and lakes. On the coast of the Mediterranean, however, according to Schlenlein, it is rare. It is seldom met with on mountains or on high table lands.

It occurs most frequently in damp marshy localities, deep valleys, chiefly at the foot of steep hills and the shady side of valleys. Crawford remarks, that in the marshy districts of Scotland, where it used to be very frequent, it has become very rare after they have been drained.

Croup is endemic in North America. It used to be much more frequent in Britain and in Sweden than in Germany; but it has of late years become much more frequent in the latter country.

f. *Literature.*—Canstatt, *Specielle Pathologie und Therapie*. Meissner, *Encyclopadie der med. Wissenschaften*. Schmalz, *medic. chir. Diagnostik in Tabellen*, 1825. Schlenlein, *spec. Path. und Therap.* Dreissig, *Handbuch der med. Diagnostik*, 1825.

[*Br. Jour. Hom.*

(To be Continued.)

REVIEW OF A REVIEW OF HAHNE- MANN'S CHRONIC DISEASES.

By B. F. BOWERS, M. D., OF NEW YORK.

Continued from Page 183.

"It is melancholy to think what an enormous aggregate of suffering and calamity has been occasioned by a disregard of the axiom which I have quoted. Our means for the direct removal of disease are limited in extent; but it is not so with our power to augment and to cause it; this is unlimited. *Difficult as it may be to cure, it is always easy to poison and to kill.* We may well congratulate ourselves and society, that the *primary and fundamental truths* of which I have

been speaking, are finding their right position and producing their legitimate results; and that long abused humanity, is likely, at no very remote period, to be finally delivered from the abominable atrocities of wholesale and indiscriminate drugging. I cannot forbear remarking, that this evil, in addition to the many others which I have already had occasion to enumerate, has been greatly aggravated, and in many instances, wholly produced by the influence of a priori medical doctrines. The whole history of medicine will show that the most flagrant abuses of this character have always been the direct result of these mischievous influences."

Dr. Gilchrist in the same Journal says:—"In Sir John Herschell's Discourse on the Study of Natural Philosophy, it is stated that Art is the application of knowledge to a practical end. If the knowledge be merely accumulated experience, the art is *empirical*; but if it be experience reasoned upon and brought under general principles, it assumes a higher character and becomes a scientific art. It is humiliating indeed to consider that, in this age of boasted scientific advancement, the practice of medicine and surgery must be allowed to belong more to the former than to the latter division of art." Medicine and surgery as practised by Allopathists is yet an empirical art; but it is not founded on sound empiricism. "Has the profession itself then but been supplying lessons to the acknowledged quack? Alas! we fear we must confess ourselves herein guilty. We have not been prescribing medicines like philosophers, we have not only been rudely and blindly experimenting with drugs." Rudely and blindly experimenting with drugs, in poisonous doses, upon the sick! We have been engaged in what Bacon calls "the interpretation of nature." We have forgotten his wise and weighty aphorism, which however trite, cannot be too often sounded in our ears;—"Man, the minister and interpreter of nature, can act and understand in as far as he has either in fact or in thought observed the order of nature, more he can neither know nor do." These opinions recently given by distinguished physicians are calculated to confirm the strong language of the illustrious Bœrhave: "If we compare the good which half a dozen true disciples of Æsculapius have done since their art began, with the evil which the immense number of doctors have inflicted upon mankind, we

must be satisfied that it would have been infinitely better for mankind if medical men had never existed." It would be easy to go on and cite authority upon authority to the same effect. I think it must now be apparent how much credit is due to the reviewer's statement that want of success in Allopathic practice is not owing to any imperfection in the resources of the art.

If "it only proves the immense force of habit that, with such convictions," of the worthlessness of the medical art as age and experience must impress upon the minds of intelligent practitioners, "we do not more frequently see men quit a profession which, under such circumstances, requires a constant exercise of hypocrisy and a sacrifice of principle, surely those men, who, from principle, overcome the force of habit, and brave abuse and ridicule in their efforts to improve the art and science of medicine, deserve well of mankind and are entitled to a candid hearing. Allopathists themselves being judges, their is great need of reform, and the little benefit which has resulted from the labors of so many gifted minds for so many generations, is strong presumptive evidence that they have not adopted the true method.

The reviewer's statements respecting Homœopathy are no more reliable nor true than are his charges against Hahneman and Homœopathic physicians. He does not attempt, nor dare, to grapple fairly with the great principles of Homœopathy. Misstatement and denunciation seem to be his reliance for its overthrow, and it must be confessed that if it could be overthrown by the unscrupulous use of such means, he would be entitled to the victory so ingloriously won.

He appears to think that the matter is to be summarily settled by his mere ipse dixit; that bold assertion without proof is good authority in matters of science. "We have said that the law 'Similia similibus curantur' is a pure fiction, founded on assumption and unsustained by facts." The reviewer's magisterial "we have said" would have more weight if he had not said things which are notoriously false, and under circumstances where an honest mind could hardly be mistaken. As no reasons are given in support of the above assertion, it would be sufficient so far as the reviewer is concerned, to meet it by a simple denial. But the truth is, Hippocrates and eminent physicians from his time to this day, have recognized this principle in

therapeutics. Omitting other authorities which might be cited, take the "*Enchiridion Medicum, or Manual of the Practice of Medicine, the result of fifty years experience, by C. W. Hufeland, the late venerable and learned patriarch of German medicine,*" translated and published in this city in 1842 with the recommendations of James R. Manly, M. D., John W. Francis, M. D., J. H. Johnston, M. D., John B. Beck, M. D., Valentine Mott, M. D., Edward Delafield, M. D.; Revised by Robert Nelson, M. D.

Under the head of Therapeutics, when explaining the way in which the "selection of remedies is made," he says "Also the principle—'*Similia similibus curantur,*' the knowledge of medicines, which produce in a healthy state symptoms similar to the disease, may be very well profited of, in order to discover such remedies;" that is, remedies which "have a particular relation, and curative power, as regards a certain organ or morbid condition of the system; such are the effects of cantharides on the urinary organs, of mercury on syphilis—*specifica,*" p. 73.

Again when treating of the "radical cure" of nervous diseases, he says: "The direct or specific cure is affected by the following remedies: first, the application of such means as have a specific relation to the nervous system (*nervina antispasmodica.*") "In order to find out the proper nerve, it is very useful and important to look for those remedies, which, in a healthy state, would specifically affect the laboring part, or are capable of producing attacks similar to the actual one.

It is here assumed that some remedies have a particular relation and curative power as regards certain organs or morbid conditions of the system; that such remedies are called *specifics*, of which cantharides in its effects on the urinary organs, and mercury on syphilis, are examples; that the principle "*Similia similibus curantur*" may be very well profited of in order to discover such remedies obviously because specific remedies are Homœopathic remedies; and that therefore "it is very useful and important to look for those remedies, which in a healthy state, would specifically affect the laboring part or are capable of producing attacks similar to the actual one" in order to effect a *radical cure*, because in such remedies there is a *direct specific curative power*.

The reviewer says: "Converts to Homœopathy take its"—the law *similia, &c.*—

"truth for granted without proof, and often without examination, simply because, so far as we can see, Hahnemann has promulgated it." Upon what grounds then, I would ask, do Allopathic physicians, from Hufeland down to Dr. Manly, adopt and recommend it?

(To be Continued.)

Detroit, Dec. 18th, 1847.

DRS. KIRBY & SNOW—

Homœopathy is progressing steadily and surely throughout Michigan. We have now more than a dozen avowed and acknowledged practitioners of Homœopathy throughout the State, and several allopaths are investigating its truth. The result of this investigation I anticipate will be the same as it always has been when homœopathy has been examined and tested by honest men. I mean its unhesitating adoption.

Michigan is a flourishing State, and I have no hesitation in saying that there are many as good locations for an enterprising homœopathist in our large towns as in any part of the country; and I trust that within the next three years, at the utmost, I shall see all these openings filled, and the sanguinary champions of the old school set back amazingly.

The idea prevalent throughout the East generally, that Western fevers, and especially Michigan fevers, cannot be treated successfully by homœopathy, is certainly fallacious. It is the united testimony of all the homœopathists throughout the State, that Michigan fevers are safely and certainly cured by homœopathic medicines, and repeated and extensive observation compels me to declare that these fevers are very seldom or never dangerous unless made so by the horrible treatment of allopathic physicians.

The vast majority of cases of fever in Michigan are remittent or intermittent; but time and again, have I seen these simple uncomplicated fevers, which, under suitable treatment, terminate in from three to ten days in most cases, converted by the drastic cathartics and emetics of the allopath into a continued gastric fever, lasting from three to six weeks, and not unfrequently terminating in death. The great majority of deaths from fever in this country are like the above. Typhus fever, "per se," is very rare in Michigan, but you may take any fever, however mild, and put the patient through a course of enormous doses of calo-

mel, antimony, jalap, castor oil and spirits of turpentine, and in nine cases out of ten you will have a dry red tongue, tender and tympanitic abdomen, frequent watery and bloody discharges, often delirium; and if the treatment is persevered in, death terminates the melancholy scene. This is no highly colored picture I assure you; it is of daily occurrence in Michigan during the sickly season. In fact, I have seen but few deaths in these Western fevers where the patient was not absolutely puked and purged right straight to death.

I have now practiced in Michigan two years, and during this time have successfully treated more than two hundred cases of fever, many of them severe bilious and congestive fevers, and never have given a cathartic to one of them.

Homœopathy is soon destined to redeem Michigan from that dread name which is alone the offspring of the reckless treatment of allopathy, and place her among the most healthy States of the Union.

I send you the following extract from my Case Book, occurring October 30th. I think it sustains the correctness of Hahnemann's proving of Rhus, and likewise shows its homœopathicity to sprains of the ankle joint, for which I have given Rhus tox. with benefit.

Mr. R., aged 19, has been well all summer, yet had ague four years ago. Has been working in a swamp, and has cut and handled poison Sumach (*Rhus vernix*) two weeks ago. He was attacked the same night on the wrists and hands with (pimples) blisters, soon extending over the body, and very thickly implanted. They burn like fire, itch and smart. Slept none for the first three nights, from pain, as if needles were stuck into him. Frightful spectres appear in his dreams. Head very dizzy, aches, stinging. He has at this time many vesicles over the surface, smarting, itching and burning; has several bluish swellings like boils, on different parts of the body; they all sting, ache and beat. His left foot is swollen as if from phlegmonous erysipelas, having several blisters on its surface, and one swelling near the little toe, discharging bloody pus. The left ankle pains him as "if out of joint" (the patient's words). He is almost unable to walk; he had a chill three nights in succession at about eight o'clock, lasting half an hour, and followed by sweat for two hours, without any fever, thirst worse during the chill, although he is thirsty all the time. Appetite poor; bowels constipated; could not

pass urine for three days from swelling of the prepuce. *All his pains were worse when lying down and better when walking.*

Bryonia 3, one drop night and morning, gave but little relief, although recommended as the best antidote.

Rhus tox. one drop of the 30th, in the morning, stopped the chills that night, and relieved his pains very much. He took nothing else, and in three days was so far recovered as to be able to undertake to walk twenty miles into the country, since which I have not seen him. Of course the boil like swellings had not subsided, as they had progressed too far towards suppuration, but the eruption was very much less and the swelling of the left foot gone.

I have likewise prescribed the *Rhus tox.* to another patient, who had an eruption like "Salt Rheum," or a Herpes, a very itching, smarting and burning eruption, vesicular, yet running together, very red, and covered with a thick yellow scab, occupying the wrist to the elbow of the right arm, and caused by the poison Ivy (*Rhus radicans*).

She took four globules of the 30th, night and morning, for four days; the eruption grew much worse, but on omitting the medicine the eruption was well in less than a week. This case was of several weeks standing.

I am assured by a distinguished allopathic physician of this State, that the juice of the *Rhus*, taken internally, secures the susceptible individual ever after from being poisoned by it.

Respectfully yours,

P. M. WHEATON, M. D.

JAHN'S NEW MANUAL.

No. 7 of Vol. 2 is out in good time. It was received just as this Journal was going to the press. Looking through it cursorily, we notice that it contains the pathogenesis of *Rhus Radicans*, "arranged by Dr. B. F. Joslin, with the co-operation of Drs. S. B. Barlow, E. Bayard, R. M. Bolles, B. F. Bowers, R. A. Snow, J. Taylor, W. Williamson and C. Wright. A few symptoms from Drs. Bute and Horsfield." This will be regarded, doubtless, a valuable addition to the *Materia Medica*. And Dr. Joslin will secure the approbation of the Homœopathic school, for the truly able manner in which he has discharged his duty in the arrangement of the symptoms, &c.

EXTRACT FROM THE SPEECH OF DR. GILOLI,

At the Dinner of the British Homœopathic Society, in London, 1847.

Dr. G. among other good things said:—"Freedom of opinion has hard work in this world to pierce the thick clouds of ignorance and error, and come to light. Indeed, in several quarters, it had suit a good deal to struggle against. Ignorance, error, monopoly, and moral corruption of all kinds invented all manners of locks, chains, barriers, gates, and enclosures, in order to keep back this light and catching thing—freedom of opinion, and preventing its going abroad in the world. But more than this; it was depicted as a plague, requiring quarantine laws and *lazaretti*, and designated as the destroyer of the most sacred truths. In religious quarters indexes, inquisitions, *autos da fe*, and wholesale massacres were arrayed and perpetrated against freedom of opinion. In political quarters, prisons, the gallows, the guillotine, and fusillades. Thousands and thousands of followers of the sacred principle had been slaughtered; but the principle remained, grew brighter, larger, more and more expansive, and, like a luminous ether, began to penetrate and fill up all quarters. It was, indeed, very sad to have it said that the regions of science were ever left in darkness from the forced exclusion of the light which freedom of opinion alone could engender. Nor were tyrants against freedom of opinion to be found only among such ignorant bigots before whom the finger of Galileo was stretched to point out the earth's movement. But cultivators of science, brothers in science, often rose to stifle liberal calls for freedom of opinion. Nor were persecutions, large and petty calumnies, threats, taunts, satires, ridiculing omitted, to keep back and deter from progress the great principle of freedom of opinion. (Hear.) Fortunately, it was on the wings of Providence that the sacred principle effected, continued, and hastened its progress. Once seen by men, it was in vain to represent it as the destroyer of truth. Men soon saw that freedom of opinion was the best, indeed, the only leader to truth. And if this were true with regard to all human concerns, with regard to all sciences and arts, it must be still more so with regard to medical science and art,—the *Ars longa* of Hippocrates, the *Ars conjecturalis* of Celsus. But what should the say of the new therapeutics which all of them there assembled had warmly adopted and earnestly followed? Did they not all start from the same point,—the great principle, *Similia similibus curantur*.—and yet when some of them had proceeded in their course, and then happened to turn round, did they not perceive how many of their brethren greatly diverged from each other? (Hear.) Was that an evil? It was not an evil, but rather a necessity, in the nature of things; and their Society, taking its inspirations from the liberal mind of their worthy President, most

wisely accepted the fact, and opposed no hindrance to it. (Hear.) Should one party force them to rise up to the ethereal region of the highest potences or dilutions, or should another party confine them among tangible crystals, a mineral strata, or odoriferous, colored, and tasteful substances? No! a thousand times no! Let freedom of opinion stand; guide them wherever they listed. Wide were the fields of experimental science and conjectural art. They should freely look for truth, and whatever thing they found there, and discerned it to be of the truth they should gather, keep, and show it to each other without reserve, without respect of persons; for truth, as from God, was above any power, however great and influential. No matter how far and wide might be their wanderings from each other, there was nothing to fear. They should never lose sight of, they should ever recognise, and always meet in a mansion which was common to all true Homœopaths,—a mansion which was a lighthouse from whatever distance they might travel in search of truth, where the common light of their New Therapeutics shone forth in the great principle, *Similia similibus curantur*. A hearty toast then to freedom of opinion.—(Cheers)

B. H. Bartlett of Chicago, Illinois, is authorized to receive subscriptions to this Journal; also, Dr. John Wheeler of Cleveland, Ohio.

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No. 483 Broadway, corner of Broome street. J. T. S. Smith has a large assortment of Homœopathic Medicines, in tinctures, triturations, dilutions and globules; Arnica flowers; Sugar of Milk, Pure Alcohol, Distilled Water, Pellets, &c., &c. Physician's Pocket and Family Cases of Medicine on hand, and prepared to order. Homœopathic Plasters a substitute for ordinary Court and Adhesive Plaster, and an excellent application for Corns.

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